

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A spatial light modulator comprising:

a multiplicity of pixels arranged in a lattice form ~~for selecting~~ and configured to select a transmission or reflection state and a blocking state of a corresponding light ray on each pixel thereby spatially modulating a light intensity of a light beam that includes the corresponding light ray, the spatial light modulator;

wherein a light transmissivity distribution or a light reflectivity distribution over ~~whole~~ the multiplicity of pixels is set such that a light transmissivity or light reflectivity is lower at and around a center of ~~an arrangement~~ the lattice of the pixels and increased with an increasing distance from the center of the lattice, and

the light transmissivity distribution or the light reflectivity distribution is achieved by the multiplicity of pixels without changing a direction of light rays within the light beam.

Claim 2 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 1, wherein the light transmissivity distribution or light reflectivity distribution is set substantially inversely proportional to Gaussian distribution.

Claim 3 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 1, wherein the light transmissivity through or light reflectivity upon the pixels is set on each pixel.

Claim 4 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 2, wherein the light transmissivity through or light reflectivity upon the pixels is set on each pixel.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A holographic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising at least:

a spatial light modulator having a multiplicity of pixels arranged in a lattice form ~~for selecting and configured to select~~ a transmission or reflection state and a blocking state of a corresponding light ray on each pixel thereby spatially modulating a light intensity of a light beam that includes the corresponding light ray, wherein a light transmissivity distribution or a light reflectivity distribution over ~~where~~ the multiplicity of pixels is to be set on each pixel and wherein the light transmissivity distribution or the light reflectivity distribution is achieved by the multiplicity of pixels without changing a direction of light rays within the light beam;

light-receiving means for detecting an intensity distribution of a light beam passed through the spatial light modulator; and

control means for setting the light transmissivity through or the light reflectivity upon ~~[[the]]~~ a pixel, depending upon an intensity distribution of the light beam detected by the light-receiving means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A holographic recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the light-receiving means comprises:

a plurality of light-receiving elements distributed in a two-dimensional arrangement, a radial distribution function of the light-receiving elements having a value increasing with an increasing distance from a center of the light receiving means.